

Utah State University Athletics



Utah State Volleyball Falls Short in Three-Set Battle to No. 5 Nebraska

Women's Volleyball

Posted: 8/25/2023 7:08:00 PM

LINCOLN, Neb. – Utah State volleyball (0-1) battled but ultimately fell short in its season opener at No. 5 Nebraska (1-0) on Friday.

The Aggies were led by graduate outside hitter [Shelby Capllonch](#) with nine kills. Sophomore setter [Leah Wilton-LaBoy](#) had a team-best 13 assists, followed closely by junior setter [Beatriz Rodrigues](#) with 12.

Defensively, both USU middle blockers logged a team-high three blocks in graduate [Kennedi Boyd](#) and sophomore [Bella Wooden](#). Senior libero [Jordi Holdaway](#) led Utah State with eight digs.

The teams went back and forth to open the first set as a kill from sophomore opposite side hitter [Kaylie Ray](#) tied it at 6-apiece. The Huskers responded with a 4-0 run to take a 10-6 lead. A kill from junior opposite [Adna Mehmedovic](#) followed by an ace from Capllonch trimmed the advantage to three at 14-11, but that would be as close USU would get as Nebraska won the first 25-20.

The Huskers took an early lead in the second set, but a 4-0 Aggie run, capped by a Ray and Wooden block, gave Utah State a 7-6 edge. Nebraska reclaimed the lead and a 4-0 run of its own later in the set gave the Huskers a 19-12 advantage. A Capllonch kill and a service ace from freshman defensive specialist [Kendel Hone](#) ended the Nebraska run, but the Aggies were unable to close the gap as the Huskers won 25-17.

A Ray kill followed by a Ray and Boyd block gave USU an early 6-5 edge in the third. The Huskers reclaimed the lead with a 3-0 run and held the advantage for the remainder of the set. A late 3-0 run that featured a pair of Capllonch kills would trim the edge to 19-16, but, following a Husker timeout, Nebraska closed out the set with a 6-1 run for the 25-17 win.

Overall, USU hit .061 (30-24-99), while Nebraska hit .286 (36-12-84).

Utah State continues its road trip by taking on SMU (1-0) on Saturday, Aug. 26, at 1 p.m. (MT).

[Season tickets](#) for the 2023 Utah State volleyball season are on sale now.

Fans can follow the Aggie volleyball program on Twitter, @USUVolleyball, on Facebook at /USUVolleyball or on Instagram, @usuvolleyball. Aggie fans can also follow the Utah State athletic program on Twitter, @USUAthletics, Facebook at /USUAthletics and on Instagram, @USUAthletics.

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